



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

October - December 1999

Volume XXIV Number 5

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO OPENS SEARCH FOR EDITOR

The Board of Directors of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico seeks the services of an interested and enthusiastic editor whose chief responsibility will be to edit and administer the printing and publication of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico *Newsletter*. This position provides a wide range of opportunities to hone her/his editorial skills, develop sound policies and schedules, and to work with many educated and thoughtful members.

Membership interests center on the conservation of the native flora of New Mexico through increased knowledge of the regional flora, sound landscaping and gardening practices, edible and medicinal plants, and the esthetic values plants bring to our lives. Of foremost importance is the opportunity to develop friendships with people of related interests, and to produce a publication that will bring the total audience together so they may speak with one voice concerning the conservation of the flora of New Mexico.

If you would like to be considered for this challenging assignment or want to learn more about what is involved please contact:

Jack Carter, President
P. O. Box 1244, Silver City, NM 88062
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Visit the Native Plant Society of New Mexico on the Web:
<http://www.zianet.com/npsnm/npsweb/index.htm>

A JOB WELL DONE

Every organization changes and grows, much like the plants we study. At times of transition, it is useful to briefly look back before looking forward.

For the last eight years, Tim McKimmie has served as editor of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico *Newsletter*. During his editorship, the Society progressed from a "cut and paste" newsletter to one produced in desktop publishing. As a former editor of the NPS-NM *Newsletter*, I can appreciate what an improvement this was and how it increased the professional appearance of our newsletter. But, no editor does this job alone. Tim was fortunate to have wonderful volunteers such as Paul and Betty Shelford, as well as other members of the Las Cruces Chapter, who tirelessly labeled, sorted and mailed each issue. Their contributions bring us to where we are today.

The *Newsletter* continues to serve as the "heartline" of Native Plant Society of New Mexico. It is what connects us as members. During the transition of editors, the *Newsletter* will continue to be published and provide interesting and useful information about native plants. All members are encouraged to submit articles and ideas. NPS-NM is our organization and it is up to the members to make it what we want.

Lisa Johnston,
Carlsbad Chapter,
Book Sales Chair

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ANNUAL MEETING CENTERS ON DIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

The great strength of the 1999 Annual Meeting, held in Albuquerque from 26 through 29 August, was the diversity in subjects centering on the conservation of the flora and water of the Rio Grande valley provided by a wide range of speakers. Speakers took the theme "Wetland and Riparian Plant Communities of Central New Mexico" and flowed with it from the headwaters and mountains of northern New Mexico to the dams and agricultural areas of the southern reaches of the State. Scientists, social scientists, politicians, historians, and students of natural history made the paper sessions extremely interesting for the educated lay persons who make up the membership of the NPS-NM. When we add to the mix of excellent papers the field trips, workshops, tours, the NPS-NM book exhibit, and evening activities, we must rate this annual meeting as one of the very best ever organized for our growing membership. The Albuquerque chapter, especially Beth Herschman, chairperson, and all those who worked with her on the many separate committees, did a wonderful job of structuring the program in such a way that one continuously had an activity of special personal interest to attend throughout the four days.

As speakers described their basic research interests in the taxonomy of the yellow columbine (*Aquilegia*), or the importance of monitoring pollen production in the flora of the several isolated alkali lakes of New Mexico, or described the exciting floristic works that are underway in Rio Arriba County or in White Rock Canyon, the audience was provided with examples of the kinds of studies that must continue if we are to better understand the evolution and ecology of the flora of New Mexico. The need and difficulty of reclaiming lands lost to salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), be it on the Santa Ana Pueblo Lands, in the Albuquerque Open Space Program, on river bars in the middle Rio Grande, or old coal mines, was described by speakers who are heavily invested in making a difference in these areas that were thought by many folks to be lost forever. The problems faced by ecologists in studying the multiple variables that will determine the future condition of land and waterways were described in laymen's terms. The value of scientific research being conducted on the Jornada Experimental Range and the creation of new wetlands was addressed. The need for continued studies in anthropology, archaeology and art history in New Mexico was made evident by descriptions of single species studies, such as the Rio Grande cottonwood (*Populus deltoides ssp. wislizeni*), and overall history of the bosque.

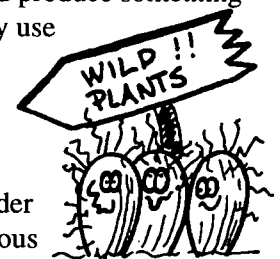
Addresses by Albuquerque Mayor, Jim Baca and New Mexico State Engineer, Tom Turney, brought home the realities of water use in New Mexico as cities, agriculture and suburbs attempt to plan for an unknown future. As these two well informed elected officials described the ever increasing debate over the future demands on the available water, one was continuously reminded that there is no shortage of water in New Mexico, but only an ever increasing "longage" of people. Turney pointed out that all available water in New Mexico is fully appropriated, consequently, water rights can only be transferred. Although permits for domestic wells may still be issued at the county and local level, as ground water reserves in aquifers are depleted and rivers fail to flow, the problems can only become more difficult to solve.

Add to the symposium and addresses the four workshops including plant identification, native plant propagation, photography and the "cooking wild" workshop provided by the Otero Chapter, plus tours to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden's Leonora Curtin Natural History area, the Rio Grande Valley State Park, the Perea Nature Trail, the Friday night BBQ and the Saturday night banquet and you see why this Annual Meeting must be considered one of our best.

Jack Carter

A Taste on the Wild Side

Tomatillo Salsa, Mesquite Pan Bread, Prickly Pear Wine, Algerita Jelly, Golden Cattail Bread. These are just a sampling of the exotic edibles the Otero Chapter prepared for the Cooking Wild Workshop they presented at the Annual Meeting in Albuquerque. And, best of all, their recipes are all gathered into a Cooking Wild Cookbook. Judy Tribble and Betty Claypool demonstrated how paper is made from glossy catalog pages that would ordinarily be tossed in the recycle bin. Members press wildflowers for the covers of these 5 x 7 cookbooks. A cookbook assembling party gathers for a social and preparation session under someone's shade tree. The "better halves" of the cooks are also involved in each step of the preparation. What a great way to get together and produce something exciting and useful. In addition, they use their jams, jellies, salsas, mesquite flour baked goods and wines as fund raisers. They take care to caution about native plant gathering laws and careful identification in order not to make food that can be poisonous or cause illness. The cookbooks are available from the Otero Chapter for a donation of \$5.00.



SANDIA FLORA WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

The first in a series of Native Plant Society of New Mexico-sponsored plant taxonomy workshops was focused upon the Sandia Mountains from July 29 to August 1. Twenty three enthusiastic participants came to study the Sandia Flora with workshop instructors Kelly Allred (NMSU Botany Professor), Jack Carter (NPS-NM President and author of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*), and Bob Sivinski (NM Forestry Division Botanist). A favorable rainfall season brought out a great variety of plants, and the Sandia Crest had a stunning display of wildflowers. Three half-day field trips were made to the mountains where everyone explored the flora, and the instructors discussed plant collection techniques, field recognition of family and genus characteristics, plant community types, and conservation issues. Plant materials were taken back to the UNM Herbarium each day for identification with taxonomic literature and reference to the UNM research collection. Tim Lowrey, Curator of the Museum of Southwestern Biology, gave workshop participants a tour, and then encouraged the use of the UNM Herbarium. This is a regional herbarium with nearly 100,00 specimens of southwestern plants. It serves as a reference and research collection for floristic and taxonomic research and is open to anyone with botanical interests. Call ahead (277-2604) for access.

Participants came to the Sandia Flora Workshop with a wide array of botanical experience. Some were new to plant taxonomy, while others were already well trained and capable of helping the other students (and instructors!). The following list of attendees shows NPS-NM members who are comfortable with Latin nomenclature, familiar with the use of taxonomic keys and understand the lines of unification plant families and genera bring to taxonomic classification. These members are interested and trained in plant identification and are assets to their chapters. Wynn Anderson, Jennifer Barr, Robert and Johanna Barr, John Freyermuth, Randy Gray (Las Cruces); Char Bartram, Ruth Meek, Martha Carter and Ramona Orton (Gila); David Conklin, Troy Maddux, Charlie Wicklund, Kristin Willette, Lolly Jones, Jon Stewart (Albuquerque); Joe Duft, Linda Green (Otero); Karen Epperson, Sally Wasowski (Taos); Laura Daniels, Ginny Harpold (Santa Fe).

All involved with the Sandia Flora Workshop expressed their delight with this activity and extend their appreciation to the UNM, Department of Biology for use of the Herbarium and other facilities; Cibola National Forest for the Special Use Permit issued to the workshop; the NPS-NM for paying approximately half of the total expenses.

All the students had high praise for the instructors and appreciated the time they donated to this activity.

Contact Bob Sivinski with your ideas for future taxonomic workshops.

Bob Sivinski



SANDIA FLORA WORKSHOP

The following are selected comments from participants at the Sandia Flora Workshop, July 29 - Aug. 1.

Wynn Anderson, El Paso, TX, Las Cruces Chapter:

"I have not been to a better NPS event anywhere. It may sound funny but I cannot remember the last time I learned so much or had so much fun doing it. I would have paid double! Jack, Kelly and Bob were incredible, doing their best to reach to the knowledge level of each participant and to keep everyone involved and enjoying themselves. I surely hope the Board will see the wisdom in continuing such events."

Joe Duft, Alamogordo, Otero Chapter:

"NPS should continue with annual plant taxonomy workshops. One on grasses by Allred would be of interest to me. We could possibly host a workshop on spring desert plants in Alamogordo. We need more complete keys to plants for New Mexico."

Kristin Willette, Corrales, Albuquerque Chapter:

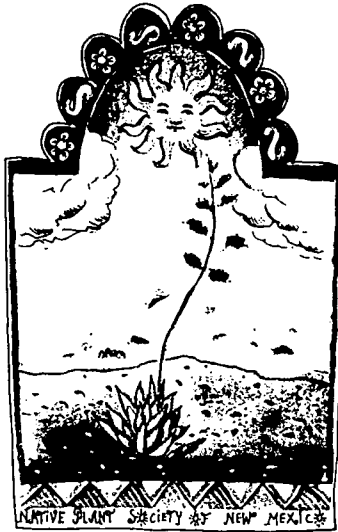
"I write to thank you all at the NPS for the well planned and executed Plant Taxonomy Workshop held at UNM July 29-August 1, 1999. It was an excellent learning experience all around and a chance to meet many friendly & knowledgeable people from around New Mexico and Texas. Being relatively new to the Albuquerque area, for me it was also a great introduction to the flora of the Sandias and the University's fine Herbarium. Thanks to Jack, Bob and Kelly Allred personally, for your patience and generosity with your knowledge."

John Freyermuth, Las Cruces Chapter:

"Many thanks for all the fine work that you put into the recent Sandia Mountains Flora Workshop. Thanks to the three instructors and Tim Lowrey, Curator of the UNM Herbarium for their helpfulness. It was good to meet people from other chapters around the state who share similar interests in regards to native plants and the NPSNM. Learning that this workshop was the first in a planned series dealing with plant taxonomy, I look forward to attending future workshops."

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN

At the February 13-14, 1999 Board of Directors meeting a T-shirt design by Lisa Mandelkern was approved for the production of 250 T-shirts. The project became a reality in late July, and Lisa, as T-Shirt Chair, is circulating information to chapters of NPSNM on her concept for the design and how chapters can order shirts for resale and raise additional funds for their chapters. The NPSNM wishes to express our appreciation to members like Lisa who use their time and talents to contribute in a positive way to the organization. The following is Lisa's description of her original design.



"The landscape depicted is framed by a retablo style border. This implies reverence for the land. Often, while traveling on a long road or lonely highway by car, the landscape seems to just be vast and empty. The painting contains some hints that there is more than this first impression. There is a flowering agave in the foreground. This often observed succulent stands in for all the wonderfully adapted native plants. Small green dots in the distance suggest more vegetation. This is a region where unique plant communities exist in low deserts, shrub lands and high mountains.

Summer is probably the most memorable season in the Southwest. The heat is intense and the thunderstorms are dramatic. There is also a river in the scene, a reminder of the lifeline of our state, the Rio Grande.

It takes some effort to cover the distances in order to explore the rich plant life in New Mexico. The reward is an expanded understanding of the world in which we live. For this journey, come and join the Native Plant Society of New Mexico."

Lisa Mandelkern, Las Cruces Chapter

BOARD WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR AT LARGE

John Freyermuth has been elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Greg Magee. Both John and Greg are members of the Las Cruces Chapter.

Greg has been a member of NPS-NM since 1987 and served on the Board of Directors as Vice President in 1993, working to assemble the NPS-NM Archives stored at NMSU Library. In 1994 he was elected Conservation Chair, working mainly on public land issues. In 1996, he was elected to the Board as Director at Large and served until his resignation in June.

From 1996 through 1998, he worked with *Newsletter* Editor, Tim McKimmie and others to produce *Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, A Native Plant Selection Guide*, produced by NPS-NM. This guide features selection and planting information about seventy trees, shrubs, cacti and succulents, wildflowers and grasses for landscaping in the Chihuahuan Desert region of southcentral New Mexico.

The NPS-NM wishes to thank Greg for the endless hours he devoted to the organization. John Freyermuth has already been mentioned as a participant in the Sandia Flora Workshop and will become a valuable resource person for the NPS-NM.

BOOKSHELF BROWSING

Lisa Johnston

The following are relatively new titles to the NPS-NM Book list. The text about each book comes from the cover information.

Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary. (Harris & Harris, 1994) Spring Lake Publishing. 197 pages. Retail \$17.95, Member \$14.40.

Plant taxonomy employs an extensive and complex terminology. Professional botanists often need several years in the field to master this terminology. The meaning of most botanical terms, however, is immediately apparent when an illustration is available. This book includes definitions for more than 2400 taxonomic terms and provides over 1700 clear illustrations of terms used in plant identification keys and descriptions.

Canyon Country Wildflowers. (Fagan, 1998) Falcon Press. 148 pages. Retail \$15.95, Member \$12.80.

In *Canyon Country Wildflowers*, the author guides wildflower enthusiasts through the specialized habitats of the Four Corners area, including Canyonlands and Arches National Parks. More than 190 species are discussed, including some flowering trees and shrubs, and each description is accompanied by a color photograph, habitat and range information and historical and cultural notes.

BOOKSHELF BROWSING

Edible and Useful Plants of Texas and the Southwest.
(Tull, 1999 ed.) University of Texas Press. 518 pages.
Retail \$24.95, Member \$20.00.

All around us there are wild plants good for food, medicine, clothing and shelter, but most of us don't know how to identify or use them. Extensively illustrated with black and white drawings and color photos, the book includes recipes for food, wild teas and spices, wild plant dyes, fiber uses, medicinal uses and distinguishes poisonous plants. This book was first published in 1987 and has just been re-released in paperback.

New Mexico Gardener's Guide. (Phillips, 1998) Cool Springs Press. 420 pages. Retail \$19.95, member \$16.00.


The subtitle for this book is, "The What, Where, When, How and Why of Gardening in New Mexico."

With this book you can create a beautiful, water-efficient garden, learn how elevation and exposure will affect your plant selection and become familiar with lesser known well adapted plants that deserve wider use in New Mexican gardens. Each species includes information about when, where and how to plant, advice for care, species, cultivars and varieties, and regional consideration. Color photographs are also included.



Lisa Johnston, Book Sales Chair, maintains a list of over 100 books covering a wide range of topics of interest to plant enthusiasts, as well as the popular New Mexico Wildflower posters, available from NPS-NM at a discount to members. You can obtain this list by contacting her at:

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1814 W. Currier Avenue,
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(505) 748-1046
e-mail: cityhall@artesia.net

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To the Editor:

Dear Friends,
For years the strength and primary focus of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico has been on the use of native plants in our landscapes and to a lesser degree on plant identification. Although this was a good beginning, the President's letter in the July/August newsletter shows that we are moving to a much broader base of activities and interests. I am impressed and delighted.

NPSNM board members are on the NM Rare Plant Technical Committee, a committee formed to catalogue and provide the most up to date information on the status of our rare plants. NPSNM is funding botanical lessons for teachers. We are assisting with scientific work conducted in New Mexico herbaria. We are funding grants for scientific and educational projects related to native plants. We are hosting an annual meeting to include three days of scientific presentations on "Wetland and Riparian Plant Communities of Central New Mexico." These activities are opening new avenues in public awareness and scientific knowledge of our flora.

For years I hoped for an increasing emphasis on science within the Native Plant Society. Now I see it happening. Understanding our floristic resources and the threats to them will never happen if we continue to focus on our abilities only as amateurs. This shift of focus will not weaken our more traditional strengths, but, rather, reinforce them as we become a more knowledgeable and credible conservation force in New Mexico.

Is there room for additional improvements in our Society? Of course, but my cup is no longer half empty. It is half full and filling. Thanks NPS-NM.

Sincerely,
Tom Wootten
PO Box 1498
Cortaro, AZ 85652



Many thanks to Robert Dewitt Ivey for permission to use the wonderful drawings from his book, *Flowering Plants of New Mexico* in the Newsletter.

CALENDAR

ALBUQUERQUE

- Oct. 7 "Botanical Explorations of Edwin James" by Mary Whitmore. 7:30 PM
 Nov. 4 "Pollinators and Pollination of Gypsum Scale Bloom" by Juanita Ladyman. 7:30 PM
 Dec. 9 "The Landscaping Revolution" by Andy Wasowski and Potluck dinner. 6:30 PM.

GILA

- Oct. 10 McKnight Peak for aspen viewing. WNMU Fine Arts lot. 8:00 AM. Leader: Jack Carter 388-9221.

OTERO

- Oct. 14 Field Trip to Winder Ranch, Lake Valley
 Nov. 6 Potluck at John and Bethanne Gordon home

LAS CRUCES

- Oct. 13 "Creosote Mesquite Scrublands-American Southwest & Monte of Argentina" by Dave Anderson. 7 PM. John Freyermuth, coordinator (523-8413)
 Oct. 17 Field Trip to Rope Springs on White Sands Missile Range. 8 AM. K-Mart /Hwy 70. Dave Anderson, leader (522-5425)
 Oct. 23 Highway Cleanup. 10:00 AM. St. James Church parking lot.
 Nov. 10 Annual Potluck. 6:30 PM. Southwest Environmental Center.
 Dec. 8 Annual Planning Meeting for Y2K Activities. 7:00 PM. SW Environmental Center.

TAOS

- Oct 13 "Understanding the Region" by Rey Torres, Taos County Extension Agent. 7:00 PM. San Geronimo Lodge.
 Nov. 10 "Native Medicinal Herbs" by Rob Hawley, Taos Herb Co. 7:00 PM. San Geronimo Lodge.

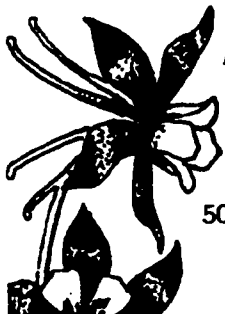
BOARD WELCOMES SAN JUAN CHAPTER

In early August the Board of Directors received a letter from Nancy Dunning, president of the San Juan Native Plant Society, requesting that this organization become the eighth chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. In her letter requesting admission to the state organization, Dunning stated that the purpose of the chapter shall be to educate members and the public and to promote the research, conservation, preservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of New Mexico. She also stated that the chapter would be located in San Juan County and serve that general region.

Board members quickly reviewed the chapter By-Laws and the list of designated officers and determined that this group of more than 20 members would be a welcome and important addition to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Activities planned by the chapter include building

a display garden of native plant species, advising public officials on landscaping choices, providing volunteer labor for landscaping at Aztec Ruins National Monument and involving school children and the public in native plant landscaping projects. Officers are: Nancy Dunning, President; Tom Harvey, Vice-president & Publicity/Publications Chair; Janet Eski, Treasurer; Patty Schille, Recording Secretary and Membership Chair; Vicki Whitaker, Program Chair; Loni Herring, Conservation Officer.

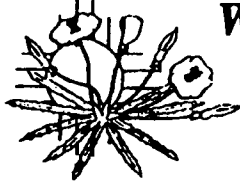
The new San Juan chapter was welcomed into the NPS-NM at the banquet of the Annual Meeting in Albuquerque on August 28. We wish to thank Andy and Sally Wasowski, Grace Mason and other members who provided assistance and direction for our friends in northwest New Mexico.



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The *Newsletter* is published six times per year by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. The Society is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico. Original articles from the *Newsletter* may be reprinted if fully cited to author and attributed to the *Newsletter*.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is open to anyone supporting our goals. We are dedicated to promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment, and to the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. A wide selection of books is available at discount. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld. Contact our Poster Chair or Book Sales representative for more information. Call chapter contacts for local information.

Advertising Schedule

Approved advertisements will cost \$50 per year.

Membership Fees

Dues are \$12.00 annually for individuals or families. "Friends of the Society" include organizations, businesses and individuals, whose dues of \$25.00 or more provide support for long range goals. To join us, send your dues to:

Membership Secretary, NPSNM,
P.O. Box 5917,
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5917.

Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions for the *Newsletter* to interim editor, Jack Carter, Box 1244, Silver City, NM 88062-1244. **Deadline for next Newsletter is December 1, 1999.**

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MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

A nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of the native flora of New Mexico.



New Mexico Penstemon
Penstemon neomexicanus
DeWitt Ivoy

The Native Plant Society membership brochure has recently been revised to include the addition of two new chapters to the organization - Taos and San Juan - and to include other information important to the Membership Secretary. For instance, members are assigned to chapters based on zip codes if no request is indicated.

Be sure to discard the former brochure if your chapter has some on hand and request the new brochures from Mary Goodman, Membership Secretary. The revised edition has an illustration of the New Mexico Penstemon, *Penstemon neomexicanus*, on the cover for easy recognition.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO WEB SITE

Web Master, Terry Peterson, Las Cruces Chapter, has been developing a NPS-NM Web site over the past few months. It is worth taking a few minutes every now and then to see what is new with the organization. Terry also has been experimenting with capturing colorful plant images. These are very artistic and worth a look. The address for the official NPS-NM Web site is:

<http://www.zianet.com/npsnm/npsweb/index.htm>

Also, look for the Minutes of the August Board meeting on the Web as soon as they are approved.



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